



BUILDING STRONG NEIGHBORHOODS COMMITTEE

Meeting Report
May 16, 2005

PRESENT: Chair Judy Chirco, Councilmember Nancy Pyle

STAFF: Mark Linder, City Manager's Office; Jim Helmer and Kevin O'Connor, Transportation Department; Stephan Haase, Planning, Building and Code Enforcement; Brook Myhre, City Manager's Office; Kip Harkness, San Jose Redevelopment Agency; Rick Stanton, Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services; Norm Sato, City Attorney's Office

The meeting was convened at 1:33 p.m.

a. Citywide Street Sweeping Update (Department of Transportation)

Kevin O'Connor, Deputy Director, provided a brief overview of the Street Sweeping Program. The program sweeps 4,072 curb miles of city streets through three district programs: residential – which is a monthly sweeping of the residential streets; arterial and bikeway sweeping – in a weekly or bi-weekly pattern depending on need; and Central Business District (CBD) and Neighborhood Business District (NBD) – which sweeps the area two to four times per week, depending on need. Mr. O'Connor updated the Committee on the Customer Satisfaction Survey performed in 2003. Notable improvements were in the areas of Focused Field Inspection, Public Education, Information and Notification, Enhanced Sweeps, and Prohibiting Parking During Sweeps.

Chairperson Chirco asked for Committee questions and discussion. Neighborhoods selected are based on feedback received from residents and are based on request and need. There are nine designated Business Districts that have sweeps paid for by City assessments. The level can be maintained through the Integrated Waste Management and Storm funds. The areas are set by contract but there is some flexibility within the contract to make adjustments. The enforcement of the “no parking restrictions” are parking tickets for parking illegally.

Chairperson Chirco asked staff to report back in an information memo on:

- entire list of designated business districts
- the selection process
- how does an area get added or dropped
- how does staff sustain services

Upon motion by Councilmember Pyle, seconded by Chairperson Chirco, the Committee accepted the staff report.

b. Vehicle Abatement Update (Department of Transportation and Planning, Building and Code Enforcement)

Jim Helmer, Stephen Haase, and Brook Myhre presented the report describing the pilot program that consolidated the Vehicle Abatement Unit (PBCE) with the Parking Compliance Unit (DOT). The goal of the pilot program was to look at an alternative service delivery model to reduce customer complaints, produce higher customer satisfaction and ultimately to produce cleaner streets.

Committee concerns focused on the repeat offender. Mr. Haase stated staff will be reviewing the policy on what constitutes moving a car. It is okay to park on the streets but the street is not a place to store a vehicle. There is a lot of compliance with about 10% being the repeat offender.

Mr. Haase updated the Committee on the Vehicle Spotters Program which should be continued. Staff will be working within the pilot program to make sure this program stays a key part of Vehicle Abatement. The towed vehicles remain in the company tow yard that picks them up. The vehicles can be reclaimed by the registered vehicle owner. There are cases where vehicles are never reclaimed and the tow company has the right to dispose of them for salvage.

Chairperson Chirco added the comments regarding fines and how it is basically cheaper to pay the ticket than pay for parking in a lot.

Mr. Haase stated staff would review the fine process regarding commercial vehicles parking in residential areas as part of the upcoming budget process. Also, with the Vehicle Spotters Program the types of violations are much more diverse with a combined team effort. This is a pilot program in terms of a time frame but geographically it covers the entire city.

Mr. Haase added if volunteers need additional information about the Vehicle Spotters Program and the training, they can contact Planning, Building and Code Enforcement through the Code Enforcement Division, Neighborhood Development Center and the Call Center.

Chairperson Chirco asked for public comment.

Bill Pope, representing Operating Engineers, addressed the Committee and stated he would send further questions to be forwarded to Stephan Haase and Jim Helmer.

Upon motion by Councilmember Pyle, seconded by Chairperson Chirco, the Committee accepted the staff report.

c. **Strong Neighborhoods Initiative (SNI) Update and Discussion (City Manager's Office)**

Mark Linder, Assistant to the City Manager, addressed the Committee with a brief update and introduced Kip Harkness, Project Coordinator for the Strong Neighborhoods Initiative Team.

Mr. Harkness stated all the team managers and Ernest Guzman, Chair of the Project Area Committee (PAC) were in attendance to listen to Committee feedback and commentary. The two items being addressed for discussion were 1) Renewing the Action Agenda and 2) Strong Neighborhoods Evaluation.

Councilmember Pyle requested an update on the various SNI's within the City and each group's accomplishments.

Mr. Harkness will provide the update to all the Councilmembers. Mr. Harkness also addressed the structure, who is in place and who on the team is responsible for which SNI area. The team for Council District 5 is short one position and staff is moving immediately to fill the position.

Chairperson Chirco addressed concern regarding Council District 5 not having a representative to contact directly and having a full team in the next cycle. Chairperson Chirco requested staff to return to the Committee and report the status of the Council District 5 team and include an update on Strong Neighborhoods Evaluation and Renewing the Action Agenda in the next six month workplan.

Chairperson Chirco complimented the staff and SNI team on the work they are doing to make it better for the larger community outside of SNI areas.

Chairperson Chirco asked for public comment.

Ernest Guzman, Chair of the Project Area Committee addressed the Committee on future recommendations.

Mark Linder requested that the SNI Team Leaders introduce themselves.

- Sal Alvarez works in Mayfair, East Valley/680 and Gateway East
- Cindy Ho works in Kona, Tully/Senter and West Evergreen
- Stephanie Jayne works in Blackford/Winchester and Burbank/Del Monte
- Elyse Perry works in Edenvale/Great Oaks and Hoffman Via Monte
- Paul Pereira works in Five Wounds/Brookwood Terrace, Market, Alamden, University and 13th Streets
- Jennifer Vasquez works in Washington, Spartan/Keyes, Delmas Park and Greater Gardner

Upon motion by Councilmember Pyle, seconded by Chairperson Chirco, the Committee accepted the staff report.

d. Anti-Graffiti and Litter Program Status Report (Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services)

Rick Stanton updated the Committee on the Adopt-A-Highway Program. A list of the highway sections were provided for Councilmember reference during community meetings.

Chairperson Chirco expressed her gratitude for a job well done in connecting with Cal Trans and building a working partnership. She also requested the Adopt-A-Highway Program return with an update within the next six months on the workplan.

Upon motion by Councilmember Pyle, seconded by Chairperson Chirco, the Committee accepted the staff report.

e. Oral Petitions

None.

f. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:32 p.m.

Judy Chirco, Chair
Building Strong Neighborhoods Committee